

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 3, 4, 17, 18 and 20 were rejected and claim 2 was objected to by the Examiner. Claims 2 and 20 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are supported by the specification, claims, abstract and drawings as originally filed and that no new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejection of claim 3 is respectfully traversed. Claims 4, 17 and 18 depend from claim 3 and the Examiner's rejection is traversed on the same grounds.

Title

The title has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection. It is respectfully noted that this amendment does not in any way limit, modify or otherwise affect the scope of the claims either literally or under the doctrine of equivalence.

Claims

As set forth above, the punctuation error in claim 2 and the antecedent basis error in claim 20 have been corrected. It is respectfully submitted that these claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 3, it recites in pertinent part:

providing a cover; and

placing the cover on the substrate to hold the plurality of optical fibers in place.

The Examiner rejected this claim on the grounds that "[t]here is insufficient antecedent basis" for "the limitation 'the cover.'" It is respectfully submitted that this element is properly introduced by recitation of the step of "providing a cover." Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 4, 17 and 18 depend from claim 3 and recite additional elements. For the same reasons, the rejection of these claims is respectfully traversed.

Reasons for Allowance

Applicants respectfully appreciate making the Examiner's reasons for allowance a matter of record. It is further and respectfully noted that additional grounds would support allowance of the pending claims.

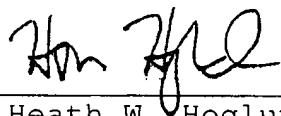
Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the application stands in condition for allowance. The Examiner's further consideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

August 20, 2004

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